



INFORMATION RETRIEVAL/DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, COMPUTER  
READABLE STORAGE MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION  
RETRIEVAL/DISTRIBUTION

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10           An information retrieval/distribution system  
configured on computers and for requesting the retrieval  
of information which is scattered on a network, comprises  
an information retrieval request unit for requesting the  
15           retrieval of information and a plurality of database  
management units for managing databases. Each of the  
plurality of database management units (e.g., each  
manager) has management information about the databases  
which are managed by each manager, and has management  
information about the databases which are managed by  
20           other database management units which can be connected to  
each manager through said network. When a retrieval  
criterion is input to the information retrieval request  
unit, one of the plurality of database management units  
(e.g., one manager), based on the management information  
25           in one manager, retrieves the information in the  
databases managed by one manager, and requests any other  
database management unit (e.g., other manager) managing  
the database in which the information related to said  
retrieval criterion is stored to retrieve the information  
30           in the databases managed by other manager, thereby  
distributing the information corresponding to the  
retrieval criterion to the information retrieval request  
source.

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